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By John B. Clymer

Crando lived like a feudal monarch in a walled castle hidden away in the hills of the border. In his half-mad brain he reserve really believed himself destined to be an emperor. Lower California could be any man's throne-- to win, to have and to hold-- and he planned to have it. But, to the annoyance of Li Fung, his Prime Minister, and Bandini, a bandit from across the border, he delayed action, and they feared failure. Crando hesitated because he loved the "Woman of the Yellow Hair." She was Hilma Allis, who hated Crando as much as her sister, Amy, loved him.

Hilma took compassion on the Dragon, a bandit leader fleeing the Rangers, and helped him escape. After Crando and Bandini offered rich rewards if he would join their raid, they learned that he was a Government spy. He was doomed to become another "missing man" in those hills. He accepted and smoked Crando's proferred cigarette, innocent that it was poisonous. Hilma found him, unconscious, and revived him. Amy reproached her for harboring a desperado of the lowest type.

He was really Captain Brandt of the U. S. Army. He had already jailed the real Dragon. He sent for eavalry troops hiding in the hills awaiting his command, and a terrific battle ensued between the soldiers and Bandini's and Crando's desperadoes. The troops stormed Crando's eastle. Within Brandt found Crando lying dead at the foot of his throne. Realizing he had lost, he smoked one of his poisoned eigarettes. Around his throat twined the yellow coils of Hilma's hair. She had been forcibly taken there by hi Fung. Brandt took her in his arms, and in his eyes she read love and understanding.

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